



# ANNUAL USE OF ALCOHOL

## BY NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Statewide

According to the *New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey*, alcohol, which includes beer, wine, and hard liquor, was the substance used most often by New Jersey adolescents in 2012. The statewide mean for annual use of alcohol was 17.3%, meaning that about one-in-six students reported having used alcohol at some point in the past year. This percentage reflects a slight decrease from the 20.4% rate measured in 2010 and a sharp decrease from the 2007 rate (25.8%)\*\*.

### Countywide

In 2012, Passaic County had the highest measured annual alcohol use prevalence (30.4%). Alternatively, the lowest lifetime rates were found in Morris and Monmouth counties (9.7% and 10.6%, respectively). However, because of low response rates in some counties, caution must be used when interpreting county-level findings. Full results for past year alcohol use by county, sorted from high to low, can be found in Table 1 and a visual representation of county variation is available on the next page.

**Table 1**

County	%
Passaic	30.4%
Hudson	23.2%
Cumberland	22.5%
Camden	21.4%
Gloucester	21.3%
Burlington	18.7%
Bergen	17.8%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>17.3%</b>
Middlesex	16.9%
Essex	16.0%
Salem	15.4%
Sussex	15.0%
Atlantic	14.9%
Mercer	14.7%
Warren	14.6%
Ocean	14.3%
Cape May	12.3%
Somerset	11.8%
Monmouth	10.6%
Morris	9.7%
Hunterdon*	n/a
Union*	n/a

The 2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey was commissioned by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assess the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), track antisocial behaviors, and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. It was administered by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, with county samples ranging between 105 and 403 respondents.

\*Please note that Hunterdon and Union Counties are not represented here because their sample sizes were too small to be considered reliable.

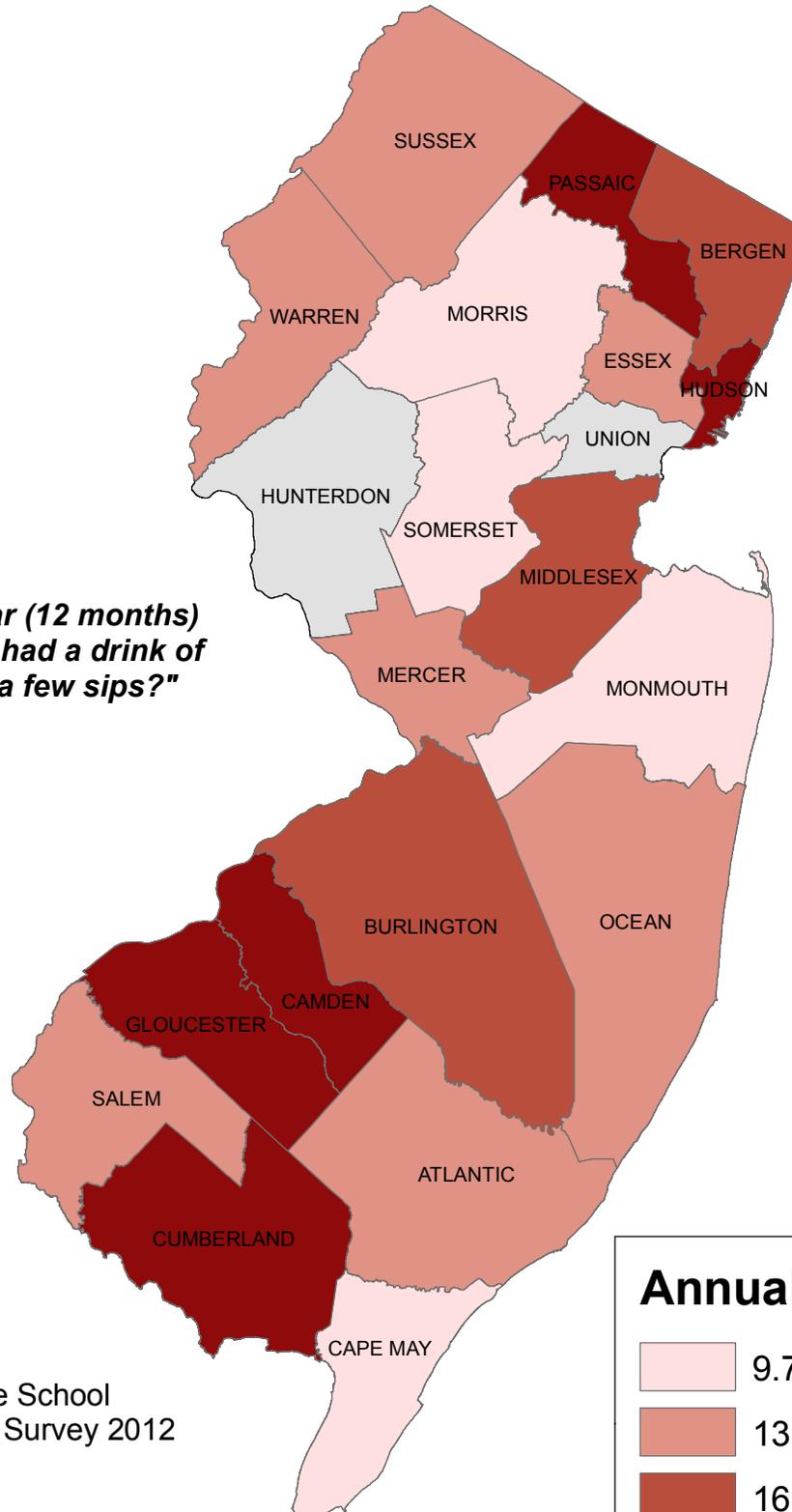
\*\* Wording of the alcohol question was slightly different in 2007, thus making comparisons less reliable.

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## By New Jersey Middle School Students

**Min: 9.7%**  
**Max: 30.4%**  
**Mean: 17.3%**

*"Within the past year (12 months) how often have you had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips?"*



Source: New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2012

*\*Note: Hunterdon and Union County estimates are not depicted here due to small sample sizes*

